



# Gateway Cities Education Agenda

*Career Academies Planning Grant Program*  
**Technical Assistance Webinar**

**August 2012**

*“Our Gateway Cities are home to much of our immigrant population, most of our low-income students, and English language learners, as well as families for whom navigating the educational system through college is unfamiliar...We cannot be truly successful as a state in closing achievement gaps unless we succeed in [our Gateway Cities] where they are most persistent.”*

- Governor Deval Patrick, 2011 Education Summit



# Overview of the *Gateway Cities Education Agenda*

## **The Need:**

- Persistent achievement and attainment gaps are disproportionately affecting students from lower-income families, students of color, English language learners, and students with disabilities in our 24 Gateway Cities.

## **The Vision:**

- The *Gateway Cities Education Agenda* will give local partners the opportunity to leverage expertise, partnerships, and resources to implement targeted strategies that will close these achievement and attainment gaps.

## **The Goal:**

- Massachusetts will build on the *Gateway Cities Education Agenda* and successful local strategies to create a stronger, more nimble 21<sup>st</sup> century public education system, one that gives all students regardless of zip code the opportunity to reach their full potential.



# State Funding for the *Gateway Cities Education Agenda*

The state FY 13 budget includes \$3.5 million in new competitive grant funding to support the implementation of two components of the *Gateway Cities Education Agenda*.

- \$3 million to operate new enrichment academies for English language learners
- \$500,000 to provide new educational and career opportunities to high school students



# Career Readiness and Workforce Development Data for the Gateway Cities

- High school students in the Gateway Cities have an average four-year graduation rate of just 63%. In some Gateway Cities, as few as 15% of incoming 9th graders complete high school on time and enroll in a four-year college or university.
- Only 21% of Gateway Cities residents who are 25 years of age or older have attained a bachelor's degree, compared with the state average of 39%.
- Gateway Cities residents have an unemployment rate of 7.3% compared with a statewide average of 6%.



# Primary Goal of the *Career Academy Planning Grant Program*

Increase high school students' career readiness by:

- Providing more opportunities for these students to explore career pathways earlier in their academic careers;
- Creating more motivating educational experiences through learning opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom; and
- Establishing multiple and seamless pathways to postsecondary educational and employment opportunities.



# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Funding and Activities**

Grant recipients will be awarded up to \$75,000 to engage in planning activities during the 2012 – 2013 school year that will result in:

- Operation of Career Academies by September 2013; and
- Establishment of Education and Industry Coordinating Councils (EICCs) that are co-chaired by the public school district superintendent and the chair of the local Workforce Investment Board and include education and industry partners.



# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **List of Gateway Communities**

Municipalities as defined in the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 23A, Section 3A

Barnstable, Brockton, Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Quincy, Revere, Salem, Springfield, Taunton, Westfield, and Worcester





# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Eligible Applicants**

- Public School Districts
- Charter Schools
- Non-Profit Educational Management Organizations
- Workforce Investment Boards
- Industries and Employers
- Educational Collaboratives
- Public and Private Institutions of Higher Education
- Non-profit Community-Based Organizations or Business and Corporate Entities
- Other Non-profit Entities
- Consortia of these Entities

*If the lead applicant for a proposal is not the public school district or a charter school within a Gateway City, this applicant must secure the support and active participation of either or both of these entities (if applicable) to establish a Career Academy.*

**Grant applicants are strongly encouraged to work collaboratively with multiple partners to develop their proposals.**



# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Funding Priorities**

- Career Academies that will serve student populations with at least 50% identified as “at risk” based on the Early Warning Indicator Index of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Matching public or private contributions equal to 10% of the grant award (contributions can include funding, equipment, or services such as the provision of paid internships and externships)



# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Required Proposal Materials**

- Cover sheet with name(s) of the applicant(s), contact information, total amount of funding requested, and required signatures
- Narrative with required signatures
- Budget workbook



# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Proposal Narrative**

A maximum of 15 single-spaced pages that includes the following sections:

- Demographic and Achievement Data
- Proposed Design Elements of the Career Academy
- Composition and Responsibilities of the EICC
- Coordination and Management;
- Capacity and Sustainability
- Additional Information (as applicable)

Appendices not exceeding 15 pages may be submitted with the proposal narrative.



# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Proposal Narrative**

### Demographic and Achievement Data

Data describing high school students in the Gateway City and the Career Academy that will be established, including, but not limited to:

- The racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds of students
- Student achievement outcomes
- Information about socioeconomic status
- Enrollment and attendance data
- Dropout and retention rates



# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Proposal Narrative**

### Design Elements

- Rationale for establishing an Academy, target population(s), and how student needs will be addressed
- Description of the structure of the proposed Academy (full conversion of an existing school or an Academy within a school)
- Areas of focus and alignment with local/regional academic and workforce development needs
- Possible academic and career development courses and other types of project-based, experiential, or service learning opportunities
- Alignment of proposed academic and career programs to existing school, district, and statewide initiatives



# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Proposal Narrative**

### Composition and Responsibilities of the EICC

- Rationale for establishing an EICC
- Names of the EICC co-chairs (public school district superintendent and chair of the local Workforce Investment Board) and proposed members
- Proposed functions and responsibilities of the EICC
- Specific contribution(s) of any entity represented within the EICC that is offering matching contributions equal to 10% of the grant award (as applicable)



# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Proposal Narrative**

### Coordination and Management

- Individual(s) who will contribute to the design of the proposed Career Academy, including the proposed timeline for hiring an Academy Coordinator
- Proposed responsibilities of the Academy Coordinator and members of the Career Academy planning team
- Individual(s) who will be responsible for establishing and convening the EICC and their proposed responsibilities
- Preliminary information about the allocation of adequate time for planning activities and the management of the EICC





# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Proposal Narrative**

### Capacity and Sustainability

- Detailed information about the levels of individual, collective, and organizational capacity to design a high-quality Career Academy
- Partner organization(s) that will support the planning activities for the Career Academy and the activities of the EICC
- Evidence of school site and/or district support for the establishment of the proposed Career Academy
- Potential barriers to the successful design of the proposed Career Academy and how they will be addressed



# *Career Academies Planning Grant Program*

## **Proposal Narrative**

### Budget Workbook

- Proposed expenditures
  - Examples of allowable expenditures include: 1) stipends for educators and administrators; 2) reimbursements for substitute teachers; 3) specific services provided by consultants with expertise in establishing and operating Career Academies; and 4) the acquisition of curricular and other materials or educational and instructional software necessary to design the Career Academies.
- Detailed budget narrative



# Key Dates and Deadlines

- **5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 31, 2012**  
Statement of Interest must be submitted by the Mayor/Head of Local Government and the public school district superintendent
- **5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 2, 2012**  
Grant proposals must be submitted to the Executive Office of Education
- **On or around November 15, 2012**  
Executive Office of Education will announce grant awards
- **Date of grant announcement to August 31, 2013**  
Timeframe for spending the grant award



*“The Gateway Cities Education Agenda is a targeted and aggressive plan to close achievement gaps and build a 21<sup>st</sup> century public education system for students in our Gateway Cities. By implementing this Agenda, Massachusetts will continue its pioneering leadership in educational achievement and reform, and will dramatically accelerate the pace by which we increase levels of educational achievement and attainment for all students.”*

- Executive Office of Education, August 2012



# Primary Contacts and Additional Information

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Additional information about the *Gateway Cities Education Agenda* is available at <http://www.mass.gov/edu/gateway-cities-education-agenda.html>.

